

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 553

By Tracy

A RESOLUTION to recognize Tom Tozer on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of industry; and

WHEREAS, Tom Tozer is one such estimable person who serves with distinction as the Director of News and Media Relations for Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU); and

WHEREAS, after two decades of dedicated service with that noble institution of higher learning, Mr. Tozer will soon be taking a much deserved retirement; and

WHEREAS, initially hired as a staff writer in 1983, Tom Tozer was soon promoted to Director of Media Relations and, because of his visionary leadership and unparalleled work ethic, was named the Director of what was then known as MTSU's Office of News and Public Affairs; and

WHEREAS, throughout his illustrious tenure at MTSU, Mr. Tozer has ushered in a host of positive changes; he was instrumental in the creation of *MTSUNews.com* and also launched *Out of the Blue*, a monthly video magazine which airs on local cable stations across the Midstate; and

WHEREAS, he also devoted himself to providing the students with a safe learning environment, working closely with MTSU's Department of Public Safety to develop and implement emergency notifications with text-messaging technology and organizing MTSU's "Building Runners," who help alert and guide students, faculty, and staff to safety during campus emergencies; and

WHEREAS, this consummate professional has come to truly embody the heart and soul of MTSU with his sterling service on numerous committees, insightful lectures to public-relations classes, brilliant work on various promotional campaigns for conferences and other major events, and skilful representation of the university in numerous community organizations; and

WHEREAS, a dedicated civic leader, Tom Tozer has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order through his work with several noteworthy organizations, including serving as the Board President of the American Heart Association of Rutherford County, the Board President of his local Salvation Army, and a member of the Board of Elders First of Rutherford County; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, Mr. Tozer received the MTSU Foundation Public Service Award in 2007 and the Parthenon Award from the Tennessee Press Association in 2000, was inducted into the Phi Kappa Phi Honorary Society in 2008, and received a plethora of writing awards from the Tennessee College of Public Relations Association and the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Tom Tozer is most grateful of the love and support he shares with his wife, Linda, with whom he has treasured thirty years of wedded bliss. He is also the proud father of Alyssa McDonald and Megan Farmer, both of whom are graduates of MTSU; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Tozer exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Tom Tozer has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we extend to Tom Tozer our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.